

other forms of force, regarded as supernatural. Rank can be gained only by the consent of those who already have it¹

150. Plutocratic effects of money. It must not be understood that the money, on the barbaric stage, enters into the struggle for existence, at least for food. There is only slight organization of labor. Each one produces what he needs. There is little luxury. " Nevertheless, money plays the chief role in the life of the people. The man, regarded as an animal, has enough to do to support life. If he wants a wife, wants to found a family, wants to be a member of the state, he must have money." ² It is evident that the circulation of this money must produce phenomena which are unfamiliar to us.

The estimate placed by the Solomon Islanders on great stones of aragonite, obtained in the southern Palau islands, is such that they incur great risks in going to get them in their frail boats.⁸ The pieces have the appearance of our own grindstones. They are set in rows by the men's clubhouses, and are in care of the chiefs. Christian mentions two of the Big Houses on Yap with stone money piled against the foundations. One piece was twelve feet in diameter and one and a half feet thick, and had a hole in the center two and a half feet in diameter.⁴ A certain Captain O'Keefe, in 1882, fitted out a Chinese vessel and brought thousands of pieces of money from Palau to Yap. He brought the whole island in debt to himself. Now-adays they want big stones. Such six feet in diameter are not rare. This kind of money is the money of the men ; that of the women is of mussel shells strung on strings. The exchange of a big piece for smaller kinds of money involves considerations of rank. Two of equal rank, and well disposed, exchange by dignity ; if one is inferior, the good will of the other is requisite. The glass and porcelain money on Yap must have come from China or Japan. It has controlled the social development of the islands. It is also noticeable that other things of high utility, e.g. the wooden vessels in which yellow powder is prepared, or in which food is set forth

at feasts, are made the objects of exchange, and, at the making of peace after a fight, or at other negotiations, affect the relations of tribes.⁵ At the present time bags of dried cocoanut are employed as a medium of exchange, probably in intergroup trade.⁶ What Kubary⁷ says about the use of the money shows that it has no proper circulation. It accumulates in the

¹ JAI, X, 287.

⁵ Kubary,

² Kubary, Karottnenarchipel². ⁶ Christian, Caroline fsL, 237.

³ Semper, Palau Inseln¹⁶⁷. ⁷ Die Soc. Einrichtungen d. Pelauer.

* Caroline /r/., 259.